

Brown	Hoeven	Romney
Cantwell	Inhofe	Rosen
Cardin	Johnson	Rounds
Carper	Kaine	Rubio
Casey	Kelly	Sanders
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sasse
Collins	King	Schatz
Coons	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lujan	Shaheen
Cramer	Lummis	Shelby
Crapo	Manchin	Sinema
Cruz	Markey	Smith
Daines	Marshall	Stabenow
Duckworth	McConnell	Sullivan
Durbin	Menendez	Tester
Ernst	Merkley	Thune
Feinstein	Murkowski	Toomey
Fischer	Murphy	Tuberville
Gillibrand	Murray	Van Hollen
Graham	Ossoff	Warner
Grassley	Padilla	Warnock
Hagerty	Paul	Warren
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Portman	Wicker
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wyden
Hirono	Risch	Young

NAYS—2

Hawley

Lee

NOT VOTING—5

Burr
CapitoHyde-Smith
Moran
Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, first, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JANET LOUISE YELLEN

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, a few minutes ago, Chair Janet Yellen was approved by the Senate Finance Committee to be Secretary of the Treasury by an extraordinary 26-to-0 vote.

I have seen times around here in the Senate where you come away convinced you couldn't get 26 to 0 among Senators to buy a soda. I want to thank Senators GRASSLEY and CRAPO for working very closely with me and Senate Democrats to achieve this remarkable vote this morning.

The fact is, Janet Yellen has been confirmed by this body four times. She really belongs in the Senate confirmation hall of fame, and the reason that she has been confirmed all of these times is because of what we saw at her confirmation hearing on Tuesday. She did a superb job. After the hearing, she responded in a substantive way to hundreds of questions that came from colleagues and has made a real commitment to transparency.

Now, I know that Senators are working on a variety of issues now, but I

would like to say that I think, given the urgency of the economic challenge our country faces, in a truly perilous economic time, I would very much like to work with all of my colleagues, particularly Senators CRAPO and GRASSLEY, to find a way to, today, bring up Chair Yellen for confirmation to be our Secretary of the Treasury.

I want to say I very much appreciate the conciliatory way this was discussed today, and I really hope the Senate can vote on her nomination today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at the end of my remarks the Senator from Oklahoma, Senator INHOFE, be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks from the Senator from Arkansas that I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINA

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, on Wednesday, just moments after Joe Biden took office, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sanctioned 28 members of the outgoing administration, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, and UN Ambassador Kelly Craft.

According to Chinese State media, these Trump administration officials were guilty of "crazy moves which gravely interfered in China's internal affairs." Those "crazy moves" include presumably condemning the Chinese Communist Party's genocidal campaign against religious minorities in Xinjiang Province or its atheistic crackdown on Chinese Christians. In addition to interfering, these officials allegedly offended the Chinese people and seriously disrupted U.S.-China relations. I guess that refers to some, such as Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, who traveled to Taiwan.

Under the new sanctions, these officials are now barred from entering China, but more important and more ominous, institutions associated with them are also restricted from doing business with China.

Now, it is tempting to laugh off these sanctions, as I did last summer when China sanctioned me. You know you won't have a second honeymoon in Wuhan or you will have to vacation in a nongenocidal country.

But these sanctions are no laughing matter. They are not bluster. They are another step in China's long-term campaign to coerce Americans at every level of government and business. They are a direct attack on the independence of U.S. policy toward China and an attempt to blackmail the Biden administration with personal financial ruin in

the future if they dare to stand up to the Chinese Communist Party.

Some may start to think about the potential damage to their future, and they may start to sweat a little bit. Now, you may say: Good. I am glad that former government officials can't cash in on their service and go to influence-peddling firms like WestExec or Albright Stonebridge and sell access to the Chinese.

I might even agree with that point, but consider a few other hypotheticals. The Chinese State media singled out book publishers as just one example of who could pay the price. Many public officials like to write memoirs, and these memoirs often add a lot to our understanding of current events, but Chinese State media singled out book publishers as an example of companies that would be banned from China if they associated with sanctioned individuals.

In fact, China has already used American books as pawns in the trade war with the United States. So will major publishing houses really risk losing access to the Chinese market for all their other titles to strike a book deal with, say, a former Biden Cabinet official who was tough on China and ended up getting sanctioned? It is unclear but, I would say, doubtful.

Other public officials practice at big law firms. And I know that we all make jokes about lawyers, but it is an honorable profession. There is nothing wrong with practicing at a big law firm, and they may plan to return to their firms after the administration is over. A lot of those firms have clients with close ties to China. And even if a former public official has no client with any business in China, will those law firms really take back their old employees if it means potentially losing valuable clients who are afraid of angering the Chinese Communist Party? Again, I would say it is unclear but, perhaps, doubtful.

Once you consider these hypotheticals and others that don't involve influence peddling or anything untoward, you can begin to see the insidious consequences of these new sanctions. Beijing wants to scare the Biden administration into doing its bidding, and they want to scare U.S. businesses into blacklisting any official who irritates the Chinese Communist Party.

Therefore, I call on the Biden administration to treat these sanctions as a day-one assault on the independence of its foreign policy by denouncing this intimidation in the strongest possible terms.

But as the Chinese Communist Party is determined to prove, actions speak louder than words, so I also call upon President Biden to act reciprocally by sanctioning Chinese officials who are responsible for this blackmail campaign against his administration.

Those officials shouldn't be able to ferret away their fortunes in the U.S. banking system the way so many corrupt Chinese oligarchs do, nor should